

*** * * For the ATTENTION of the PRESS, PUBLIC and THEIR GOVERNMENTS * * ***

Announcing the Inauguration of the INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR FAIR INTERNSHIPS

SEPTEMBER 2013 — We are pleased to draw your attention to the inauguration of the *International Coalition for Fair Internships*, a global affiliation of organizations and independent advocates. We declare ourselves aligned in the shared cause of confronting the increasingly widespread practice of wage theft conducted under the guise of “unpaid internships” and promoting genuine training and learning opportunities for today’s young adults.

In January 2013 the first of several global summits was held, bringing together for the first time advocates from eleven different organizations, campaigns, and perspectives located across the globe:

Canadian Intern Association
Future Interns
Génération Précaire
Geneva Interns Association
Hague Interns Association
Intern Aware
Intern Labor Rights
Interns Australia
Plattform Generation Praktikum
Precarious Workers Brigade
University of the Arts London Students' Union
“Unpaid is Unfair” Campaign at the United Nations

While circumstances of practice and law may differ among these various advocates’ areas of focus — including the labor markets for various for-profit industries, governments, non-governmental organizations, and not-for-profit sectors — commonalities are such that we find our shared interests benefit from our mutual support and solidarity.

Coalition members do not believe that academic credit is an acceptable substitute for an adequate wage, or that the conferring of academic credit creates automatic exemptions

to workplace regulations.* Most internships do not provide training similar to vocational or academic instruction. Instead, interns are regularly assigned work that would ordinarily be done by a paid employee. To the worker whose job is replaced by an employer who has learned to rely on the labor of unpaid interns, it does not matter that an academic institution deems the experience credit-worthy. Universities do not regulate labor markets.

Unpaid and poor quality internship practices violate basic principles of fairness and justice by:

- Contributing to unemployment and inequality
- Denying opportunity to those who cannot afford to work for free
- Reducing diversity in the workforce by relying on structural privilege
- Eroding employment-based workplace protections
- Devaluing of the dignity of work
- Creating downward pressure on the wages of workers who have to compete with free labor
- Promoting accumulation of wealth by some through the uncompensated work of others
- Producing a culture of self-denigration

The *International Coalition for Fair Internships* will continue working together to broaden and strengthen our network of mutual support, and to hold stakeholders accountable in all economic sectors. As the ICFI, we invite members of the press, public and governments to contact us with questions or comments, or to join this cause.

With sincere appreciation for your consideration,

The *International Coalition for Fair Internships* participants and members

Coalition email address: fairinternships@gmail.com

Coalition website: <http://fairinternships.org>

* Intern Aware believes it is crucial that Higher Education Institutions ensure that internships taking place as part of university courses are affordable to students from all backgrounds. Institutions should introduce measures such as bursary support and free or reduced rent housing, instead of, or in addition to, wages.

Canadian Intern Association

Toronto, CA

- (w) internassociation.ca
- (e) andrewlangille@gmail.com
- (f) [facebook.com/CanadianInternAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianInternAssociation)
- (t) [@canadianinterns](https://twitter.com/canadianinterns)

Future Interns

London, UK

- (e) thefutureinterns@gmail.com
- (f) [facebook.com/futureinterns](https://www.facebook.com/futureinterns)
- (t) [@futureinterns](https://twitter.com/futureinterns)

Génération Précaire

Paris, FR

- (w) generation-precaire.org
- (e) contact@generation-precaire.org
- (f) [facebook.com/GenerationPrecaire](https://www.facebook.com/GenerationPrecaire)
- (t) [@GenerationPreca](https://twitter.com/GenerationPreca)

Geneva Interns Association

Geneva, CH

- (w) Internsassociation.org
- (e) GIA@Internsassociation.org
- (f) [facebook.com/GenevaInternsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/GenevaInternsAssociation)
- (t) [@GIAInterns](https://twitter.com/GIAInterns)

Hague Interns Association

The Hague, NL

- (w) hagueinternsassociation.org
- (e) communications@hagueinternsassociation.org
- (f) [facebook.com/HagueInternsAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/HagueInternsAssociation)
- (t) [@HagueInterns](https://twitter.com/HagueInterns)

Intern Aware

London, UK

- (w) internaware.org
- (e) gus@internaware.org
- (f) [facebook.com/internawareuk](https://www.facebook.com/internawareuk)
- (t) [@internaware](https://twitter.com/internaware)

Intern Labor RightsNew York, NY, US
& Washington, DC, US

- (w) InternLaborRights.com
- (e) Intern.Labor.Rights@gmail.com
- (f) [facebook.com/InternLaborRights](https://www.facebook.com/InternLaborRights)
- (t) [@InternLabor](https://twitter.com/InternLabor)

Interns Australia

Melbourne, AU

- (e) internsaustralia@gmail.com

Plattform Generation Praktikum

Vienna, AT

- (w) plattformgenerationpraktikum.wordpress.com
- (e) benedictanthonyraho@hotmail.com
- (f) [facebook.com/PlattformGenerationPraktikum](https://www.facebook.com/PlattformGenerationPraktikum)

Precarious Workers Brigade

London, GB

- (w) precariousworkersbrigade.tumblr.com
- (e) precariousworkersbrigade@aktivix.org
- (f) [facebook.com/pages/Precarious-Workers-Brigade/141280222587808](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Precarious-Workers-Brigade/141280222587808)
- (t) @PWB_Carrots

University of the Arts London Students' Union

London, UK

- (w) suarts.org
- (e) culture-diversity@su.arts.ac.uk
- (f) [facebook.com/suartslondon](https://www.facebook.com/suartslondon)
- (t) @cdsuarts

"Unpaid is Unfair" Campaign at the United NationsGeneva, CH
& New York, NY, US

- (w) unpaidisunfair.org
- (e) info@unpaidisunfair.org
- (f) [facebook.com/UnpaidIsUnfair](https://www.facebook.com/UnpaidIsUnfair)
- (t) @UnpaidIsUnfair